

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1962

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UN, US,ML

SUBJECT: MALI'S PERFORMANCE AT UN

REF: USUN 4066

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE RECEIVED ONLY THE MOST SUPERCILIOUS OF REPLIES FROM MALI WHEN WE VOICED TO THEM OUR CONCERN OVER THEIR PERFORMANCE DURING THE COMMITTEE OF 24 DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO. NOW, DESPITE THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO MALI, FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKHO HAS CHOSE TO ATTACK, BY IMPLICATION, US "MERCANTILISM AND CHARITY" DURING HIS GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION (USUN 4066). HE ALSO HAILED "THE VICTORY OF THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA AGAINST THE FORCES OF AGGRESSION" AND IT WAS CLEAR WHOM HE MEANT IN THE LATTER REFERENCE.

2. IT SEEMS INCONGRUOUS THAT DESPITE OUR MAGNANIMITY, DESPITE THE DRAMATIC INITIATIVE WHICH WAS THE SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 1 STATEMENT, A COUNTRY LIKE MALI - WHICH DESPREATELY NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET FROM ALL POTENTIAL SOURCES - SHOULD CHOOSE INSTEAD TO JEOPARDIZE THIS VERY AID. MALI HAS VENTURED POLITICALLY INTO AREAS IN WHICH SHE IS ILLEGALLY TESPASSING, SUCH AS PUERTO RICO, AND OTHERS WHICH SURELY ARE OF MARGINAL INTEREST, AS IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA. WE DO NOT
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SUPPOSE MALI RECEIVES MUCH AID FROM PRINCE SIHANOUK.

3. IT IS NOT INCONGRUOUS, TOO, THAT DESPITE MALI'S ATTACK
ON THE US, WE CONTINUE TO INSIST UPON HER RECEIVING OUR AID?

4. RECOMMENDATION: A) THAT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT OUR
EMBASSAY IN BAMAKO TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT TRAORE HIS FOREIGN
MINISTER'S LATEST REMARKS, AND B) THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVIEW
THE INCONGRUITIES WHICH APPARENTLY EXIST IN OUR POLICY TOWARD
MALI.
MOYNIHAN

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